Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08532 191543Z

64
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /013 W
---------- 046395
R 191527Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2349

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8532

FOR NEA/ARN AND NEA/P

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, LE
SUBJECT: AN NAHAR EDITOR TO VISIT U.S.

1. MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, SENIOR EDITOR OF LEADING BEIRUT NEWSPAPER AN NAHAR AND PROMINENT LEBANESE INTELLECTUAL PLANS VISIT U.S. BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY NOV 22. ABU JAWDEH IS CONFIDANT OF PRESIDENT SARKIS AND IN FACT ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESS WITH WHOM SARKIS MEETS.

2. ABU JAWDEH IS NOT TRAVELING ON OFFICIAL MISSION, BUT HE TELLS US SARKIS HAS INTEREST IN CURRENT STATE OF U.S. OPINION TOWARDS LEBANON AND MIDDLE EAST. HE ALSO SAID SARKIS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT OF CHARLES MALEK AND OTHER FOUR FRONT SPOKESMEN IN U.S.

3. IN RESPONSE TO OUR OFFER PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE DEPT. OFFICIALS, ABU JAWDEH WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFIDENT, BUT SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO SOMEONE TO "GET A FEELING" ABOUT USG THINKING IN PRESENT CONTEXT ABOUT LEBANON. WE GAVE HIM NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF LEBANON DESK OFFICER HOWELL AND NEA PRESS OFFICER SHERMAN.

4. IF ABU JAWDEH CONTACTS DEPT REQUEST HE BE BRIEFED AS APPROPRIATE. SUGGEST THAT, IF CAN BE ARRANGED, NEA BUREAU LEVEL CONTACT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.
LANE

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To: STATE
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